



City Of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Department of Public Utilities

Tatyana Arsh, P.E., Director

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City Partners With Driving Park Residents To Prevent Basement Flooding

(Columbus) – The City of Columbus and the Driving Park neighborhood will join in a pilot project that will create cleaner waterways and reduce basement backups in the Driving Park area. City Council will consider an ordinance on January 29, from the Department of Public Utilities that will create the Downspout Elimination Pilot Project, which will reduce the amount of stormwater entering the sanitary sewers in the project area. During periods of heavy rain, excess water overwhelms the sanitary sewer system contributing to sanitary system overflows and basement backups.

“Getting green can include simple things, like how we move rainwater and prevent flooding,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman said. “This partnership with families in Driving Park is a win-win in our mission to protect families’ homes, improve water quality and build a more modern stormwater system throughout the city.”

A study estimated 44% of downspouts in the Driving Park neighborhood may be connected to the sanitary sewer. Twenty-seven homeowners have volunteered to be part of this pilot project funded by the Department of Public Utilities. The City will work with the homeowners to make improvements, including disconnection of downspouts from sanitary sewers and installation of splash pads and rain emitters to redirect rain water. The city will invest \$115,800 in the pilot project to cover its costs.

“This is a smart investment to help homeowners protect their homes and improve the integrity of the City’s sanitary sewer system,” said Patsy A. Thomas, chair of City Council’s Utilities Committee. “The pilot program is a logical next step to the City’s Project Dry Basement, which has already helped 377 homeowners prevent basement flooding.”

The City will track water flow in the sanitary sewer before and after disconnecting the Driving Park downspouts. The Department of Public Utilities has contracted with the Downing Construction Company for the construction of the Driving Park Downspout Elimination Pilot Project.

Mayor Coleman launched Project Dry Basement in July 2004 to work with families who experience basement backups caused by excessive rains overwhelming sewers. Under Project Dry Basement, the City covers costs to install backflow devices in the homes of residents who complete an application process.

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